

CFS HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON CONNECTING SMALLHOLDERS TO MARKETS

Thursday 25 June 2015

9.30-17.00, Red Room, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Bio

Role: Discussant

Shi Yan

Vice-President

Urgenci

China



Shi Yan, the executive director of Shared Harvest (Beijing) Ecological Agriculture Service Ltd, received her PhD from the Renmin University School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, and has finished her postdoctoral research at Tsinghua University's School of Social Sciences.

As a young PhD student at Renmin University, she founded the first Chinese organic community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm growing and distributing organic vegetables to city consumers and renting plots of land to city folk interested in getting their hands dirty. Since then, 200-300 similar CSA farms have opened across the country. She has since moved on to establish Shared Harvest in Tongzhou and Shunyi in 2012.

She has been inspiring a healthier and more sustainable way to feed us. She is a pioneering force and active promoter behind the CSA movement. She is now the vice president of the International CSA Network (URGENCI). She has also published a book "My Alternative Farming Experience in America" and Chinese translations of three related books: "Farmers of Forty Centuries: Organic Farming in China, Korea, and Japan"; "Sharing the Harvest: A Citizen's Guide to Community Supported Agriculture"; and "Slow Money". "The Beijinger" selected her as one of the 20 most interesting people in Beijing. More than 300 media outlets in China have reported her story. She also gives public speeches and lectures to inspire more people to reconnect to land.